

Concise Explanatory Statement
for amendments to
Chapter 16-470 WAC
Quarantine – Agricultural Pests

On June 27, 2006, the Washington State Department of Agriculture held a hearing in Olympia to accept testimony on its proposal to amend chapter 16-470 WAC (Quarantine – Agricultural Pests). The proposal amends WAC 16-470-912 and 917 by:

1. increasing the laboratory diagnostic hourly fees, nematode laboratory diagnostic fees, and post entry inspection fee within the OFM fiscal growth factor for fiscal year 2007 (3.38%); and
2. repealing the current fee schedule for virus, bacteria, and fungus laboratory diagnostic fees and replacing them with an hourly charge that reflects the costs associated with performing these tests as required by RCW 17.24.131.

Reasons for Adopting the Rule:

Current plant pathology fees were not established to cover the increased costs of providing plant pathology laboratory and post entry inspection services, therefore, the proposed increases are necessary to ensure that the program will remain financially solvent. Restructuring the current fee schedule for virus, bacteria, and fungus laboratory diagnostic fees and replacing them with an hourly charge better reflects the costs associated with performing specific tests associated with new technologies and requirements. RCW 17.24.131 mandates that the department support these activities through fees for services. The nursery advisory committee, which is appointed by the director of the Department of Agriculture to represent the interests of the nursery industry, supports the proposal.

Summary of Comments:

The public comment period ran from May 24, 2006, until close of business on June 27, 2006. During that time one written comment and no oral comments were received. The following summarizes the written testimony regarding the proposed amendments:

Jeanne McNeil - representing the Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association, stated she “...**supports** WSDA’s proposal for nominal fee increases for requested inspections and plant pathology testing.”

Difference Between Proposed Text and Published Text:

There are no differences between the text of the proposed rule as published in the register and the text of the rule as adopted. The rule is adopted as proposed.